

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a printing portion for printing based on received print data; and
a plurality of controllers, ~~for respectively receiving a print job, and generating image data by image development of the received print job, each controller requesting the printing portion to start printing after complete image development of a received print job~~ each of said controllers comprising:

a data receiving portion for receiving reception data;
an image developing portion for developing said received reception data into intermediate data and for storing said intermediate data in a queue; and
an image transmitter, for retrieving said queued intermediate data, converting the intermediate data to raster data and for transmitting said raster data to said printing portion.

2. (Original) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a job control portion for receiving and storing the printing request, and instructing the printing portion to start in sequence that the job control portion receives the printing request.

3. (Original) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the job control portion informs a user who sends a print job of printing information.

4. (Original) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the printing information is a time to start printing.

5. (Original) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the printing information is a time to finish printing.

6. (Original) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a selector for selecting a way of requesting the printing portion to start printing between after complete image development of a received print job and after complete image development of one page of a received print job.

7. (Currently Amended) A control method for controlling an image forming system having a plurality of controllers which generate print data by image development of received print job, and transmit the generated print data to a printing portion, the control method comprising the steps of:

each controller issuing a print request to the printing portion after complete development of a received print job data into intermediate data;

storing each print request sequentially; and

converting the intermediate data into raster data; and

~~having the printing portion print~~ transmitting the raster data to the printing portion in the stored print request sequence.

8. (Currently Amended) An image data processing method comprising the steps of:

receiving a print job;

developing the print job and generating intermediate ~~print~~ data; and

requesting a printing portion to start printing after completion of the ~~complete~~ image development of the received print job into said intermediate data.

9. (Currently Amended) A program product on a computer readable medium, the program comprising the steps of:

receiving a print job;

~~development~~ developing the print job and generating intermediate print data;

and

requesting a printing portion to start printing after complete image development of the received print job into said intermediate data.

10. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein said image transmitter sends said print data to said printing portion only after verifying that all of the job conditions for said print job are satisfied by said printing portion and that no other controller is currently using said printing portion.

11. (New) The image forming apparatus of claim 10, wherein said intermediate data is transformed into rasterized image data after said image transmitting portion has determined that said print job can be send to said printing portion.